

Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo)
San Antonio, Texas

HABS No. Tex-318

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**ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...**

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cooke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

HABS No. Tex-318

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MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO (THE ALAMO)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Owner: The State of Texas. Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Mrs. Leita Small, Custodian.

Date of Erection: The Mission was founded on its present site in 1724 and the cornerstone laid May 8, 1744.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Father Antonio San Buenaventura (of Y Olivares.

Present Condition: Of the original mission only the walls of the chapel and convent are left. A new concrete roof has been put on the chapel and it is in a good state of preservation. The church originally had twin towers and a dome at the crossing of the nave and transept but these have completely disappeared. The carving on the front facade is badly eroded. Much landscape treatment, stone arches and fountains which are not original have been added to the Alamo grounds in recent years.

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction:

The church is made of limestone, the walls being three to four feet thick. The floor is of hard tamped earth except where concrete slabs and wood floors have been added in recent years to accommodate exhibits, office of the custodian, etc. The roof was originally of vaulted stone but now it is of concrete with a modern built up roofing on top. The exterior finish originally was white lime plaster; it is now plaster and cement.

Other Existing Records: San Antonio de Bexar - William Corner
Indians and Missions - Frederick C. Chabot
Report of Padre Juan Morfi 1778
Records in custody of Dr. Carlos E.
Castanedo, Garcia Library, University of
Texas, Austin, Texas.
Records of San Antonio de Valero in
Archives of San Fernando Cathedral,
San Antonio, Texas.

Additional Data:

The movement of San Antonio de Valero may be traced from an excerpt of an article written by Harvey P. Smith in 1932. "The Mission was founded in 1703 on the Rio Grande near San Juan Bautista; then in 1712 the mission was moved fifteen leagues and named San Ildefonso. In 1713 it was again moved to San Jose on the Rio Grande. Then on May 1, 1718, the mission was moved to a site on the San Antonio River and renamed San Antonio de Valero. The mission was moved a distance of two gun shots to its present site in the year 1724 and the cornerstone laid in May 8, 1744. In 1762 this building had tumbled down and the present one was being built. The siege and fall of the Alamo was on March 6, 1836, and marks the beginning of the revolution which resulted in the Republic of Texas."

A good description of San Antonio de Valero in 1778 may be derived from part of Padre Juan Morfi's Report, translated by Dr. Carlos E. Castanedo, Garcia Library, Austin, Texas. "On the east bank of the San Antonio River, about two gun shots distance from the villa is the Mission of San Antonio de Valero. It consists of a small convent fifty varas square with an arched gallery around the court (patio) on the first and second floors, around which are built the necessary rooms for the missionaries with the corresponding porter's lodge, refectory, offices, and kitchen. On the second patio (back yard) there is a room with four looms, and the necessary spinning wheels to weave cotton cloth for shawls and the ordinary coarse cotton and woolen cloth for the Indians. Two other rooms in which raw materials and the tools are kept, adjoin the workshop."

"The church (chapel) was ruined through the ignorance of the builder, but a new one, simple, roomy, and well planned is being erected on the same place, though it is not finished (at the time of this report, 1778). In the meantime services are held in the sacristy, which is a small room but very tidy and neat, a handsome image of the titular Saint Anthony."

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"The Indian quarters form a square about the mission with attractive porticoes, the whole being watered by a beautiful irrigation ditch bordered by various kinds of trees. Besides this, a well was dug to forestall the lack of water in case of being besieged by the enemy. To safeguard it the door (leading to it) is fortified. At the entrance to the convent a small watch tower was built with loopholes for three swivel guns which, with other firearms and the corresponding ammunition, are carefully guarded."

"This mission was founded with Xaranome, Payaye, Zanas, Ypanis, Cocos, Tops, and Karancawa Indians and from the time of its erection (1718) to the end of the year 1761, there were 1972 persons baptized, 1247 were administered the holy sacraments at their deaths, 454 married, and there were at that time 76 families (at the mission) numbering 275 persone in all. But since that time their number has been greatly reduced and today (1778) it scarcely has enough (Neophytes) to cultivate the fields, the looms having been abandoned for lack of workers."

Mission San Antonio de Valero, known as the Alamo is the most widely known mission in the United States because of its part in the revolution which resulted in the Republic of Texas. There, on February 23, 1836, General Santa Anna laid siege to the Alamo and on March 6, it fell and its 181 defenders were massacred. This bloody deed so aroused the Texans that they gave no quarter and several months later avenged the defenders of the Alamo and established the Republic of Texas. The Alamo is known as "The Cradle of Texas Liberty."

The entire city block in which the Alamo is located, in the heart of the business district of San Antonio, has recently been purchased by the State of Texas, and comprises one of the State's Parks and historical monuments. Work is being done at present on the park, such as the building of rock walls, walks, planting, etc. The plan will also include a museum building for the housing of relics of the Texas Revolution.

Author: Jim Cummins

Jim Cummins

APPROVED: Bartlett Cooke

Bartlett Cooke, District Officer

TW 7/26/37

Mission San Antonio De Valero (The Alamo)
Alamo Plaza (between Houston and Crockett Streets)
San Antonio
Bexar County
Texas

HABS No. TX-318

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Addendum to:

Mission San Antonio De Valero (The Alamo)
San Antonio, Texas
(as recorded on the 1930s)

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO:

MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO
(The Alamo)

HABS No TX-318

Location: Alamo Plaza, between Houston and Crockett Streets, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Present Owner: The State of Texas

Present Use: Public museum.

Significance: Established on its present site in 1724, the Mission San Antonio de Valero is one of five extant mission complexes in San Antonio dating from the eighteenth century. These buildings are of great significance to the study of colonial Texas history providing the observer some concept of that frontier institution which helped to contribute to the development of Texas.

It is also of further historic significance as a result of the role it played in the struggle for Texas independence in 1836.

PART I HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

On May 1, 1718, the original San Antonio de Pauda Mission established by Father Fray Antonio de Olivares was merged with the San Francisco Solano Mission, previously located on the Rio Grande River. The combined mission was reestablished at San Antonio and renamed San Antonio de Valero in honor of the Viceroy Marques de Valero.

It appears that the site was located at some point other than the final site as we know it today and that the mission buildings were made in the Indian fashion from sticks and branches daubed with adobe and covered with grass thatch. It is recorded that a wind storm destroyed these structures in the year 1724, and, as a result of this calamity, Father Olivares determined to move the mission to a better site and chose for that purpose the land on the east bank of the River "about two gun-shots distance from the original site."

Relative to this act of removal is the account set down by Espinosa, who wrote that Father Olivares suffered a broken leg while crossing a crude bridge sometime in 1718 and that as a result he caused the Mission site to be changed to the east bank of the San Antonio River "as that place was more fit than where he was."

Permanent building operations began at the new site after its relocation in 1724 and by 1727, the convent and the Indian jacals were erected. In a report by Fray Miguel Sevillano de Paredes of his personal visit to the Mission in 1727, as related by F. C. Chabot, it was stated that at the time church services were being held in the old jacal, a paling building with adobe daubing and a thatched roof, but that soon there would be a new church "which would be spacious, and have a good door (or frontspiece) with cleanliness and very decent decorations." The materials seemingly had been collected, but a delay was effected by the lack of necessary tools and an experienced master mason. Before leaving Mexico it seems that the missionaries had been unsuccessful in their attempts to induce trained mechanics to venture with them into the Texas wilderness.

There was, however, a permanent convent building, described by Paredes as consisting of three spacious cells. At that time a fourth cell and gallery, of stone and adobe, were under construction.

It was at least a decade following the refounding before construction of the first permanent church began "on the eighth of May, 1744, the corner stone of the new church of San Antonio was blessed, the following Friars being Ministers of the Mission: Fray Mariano Francisco de los Dolores, Fray Diego Martin Garcia, Fray Juan de los Angeles."

The church had a long history of construction problems during the 18th century. The dome and the vaults planned for the church were never built. Fray Francisco Xavier Ortiz visited the Valero Mission in June, 1756, and again in October, 1761. In 1761 Ortiz reported that the church under construction had fallen due to poor workmanship, but that it was being re-built. During the decade of the 1770 Indian population declined drastically and the construction of the church had to be stopped.

During the 1761 re-construction of the church, the original church was used for services. This building was one ample room with a small choir and sacristy.

One of the more complete descriptions of the Mission of San Antonio de Valero was written by Fray Juan Augustin de Morfi following his visit in 1777. At that time the mission consisted of a small convent, 50 varas square, with arched two-story cloisters. In this two-story building were the living quarters for the missionaries, their offices, the main entrance, the refectory and the kitchen. Over the door or main entrance to the convent the missionaries had erected a small tower which was supplied with three field pieces and rifles, all closely guarded. A second patio without cloisters "which extended beyond the 50 varas" was reported with "a gallery in which were the weaving rooms and two storerooms on either side, for keeping the materials and utensils" which at that time were "all in bad condition and some in ruins." This structure was one-story high and of adobe construction.

A trapizoidal area was enclosed by the habitations of the mission Indians and by stretches of walls which formed the mission plaza or square. Through this plaza ran a stream of running water with trees lining its banks. This stream served as the water supply for the Indians and, as a further precaution, a well was dug within the walls to insure a ready supply of water in the event the enemy would close off the stream.

Six principal tribes, according to Morfi, inhabited Valero Mission: the Jarames, Payayes, Ypandis, Cocos, Tops, and Carancaguases. By the end of 1761 the mission had recorded 1,972 baptisms, 1,247 deaths with holy sacraments and 454 marriages since its founding. There were in 1761 only 76 families or 275 persons inhabiting the mission. By 1777 the number had so decreased that the weaving rooms were abandoned and by 1778 there were barely enough to work the fields. The scarcity of Indians was a result of hostile Indian raids, smallpox and bubonic plague. The decree of Theodoro de Croix in 1777 that all unbranded cattle become the property of the government was a further detriment to the Missions making it impossible for them to supply meat to their Indian residents in the generous quantities to which they were accustomed. The royal order to secularize the Valero Mission was dated January 31, 1784, but was not received in Texas until a later date.

Also, in 1777, the Commandant General, Cavallero de Croix, was approached with the request to distribute the lands of the Valero Mission to the refugees of the abandoned East Texas Adaes settlement who were then without land to cultivate. This was soon done and the Indians of the Valero Mission were distributed among the other missions.

According to Chabot, although San Antonio de Valero ceased to be a mission in 1783 it continued to exist as a pueblo and was politically separate and religiously distinct from either San Fernando or San Antonio de Bexar. This condition existed until 1793 when the pueblo was aggregated to the curacy of Bexar. Instructions to accomplish this act were first issued by the Count of Sierragorda on September 7, 1792, and transmitted by the Viceroy, the Count of Revilla Gigedo, to Governor Manuel Munoz in San Antonio on January 9, 1793. Prior to that, on January 2, 1793, an order was issued by the Bishop of the Diocese, Reverend Doctor Don Andres de Llanos y Valdez, to the parish priest, Fray Francisco Lopez, to the same effect. On May 27, 1793, Governor Munoz reported that he had complied with the order to secularize Valero and had received sacred vessels and ornaments of the church. The book of records of the Pueblo de San Antonio de Valero were transferred to the San Fernando archives on August 22, 1793.

In 1790 the census of the mission reported a total of 108 inhabitants including six farmers, three artesans, ten day laborers and one religious. The 1791 census listed 45 Indians and in 1792 there were 103 inhabitants listed.

At the date of secularization there were only 18 Indians occupying the mission: Mariano who seems to have been the chief, "three vagabonds and fourteen women," all of the Lipan tribe. The mission lands, oxen, cows, tools and seed were distributed among these Indians, forty displaced citizens of the Adeas settlement and sixteen families in residence at San Antonio.

On April 10, 1794, Don Pedro de Nava, the Commandante General of the northeastern interior provinces, which included Texas, published a decree to secularize the missions within his jurisdiction thereby abolishing the community system by which the Indians held their property and making them equal citizens in all rights and responsibilities with other Spanish subjects. The secularization apparently was only partially carried out in Texas and a second decree was issued September 13, 1813, and ordered carried out by the Supreme Court of Mexico in 1827. In San Antonio all of the property belonging to the missions was sold at public auction in 1824.

As a result of the secularization proceedings, the mission Valero buildings were extensively described in an inventory of the mission delivered to San Fernando, April 11, 1793 with the notation: "An expert opinion of the state and circumstances of the mission was rendered by the master builder, Antonio Salazar and the carpenter, Don Pedro Guizar (sic)." The mission compound was enclosed by walls on the north, south and west sides, being 175 varas long north to south and 58 varas wide, east to west. They were constructed of stone, mud and adobe, 3/4 varas thick and 3 varas high, and at the time of the inventory they were reported to be half in ruins. The south wall was 50 varas wide and as it contained the principal entranceway, it was 4 varas high. The habitations of the Indians were reported as being in the west part of the square of the "Arqueria",* only 12 inhabitable, the rest in ruins. These were "united

*arcade

to the house of the padre, with a room 30 varas long, 5 wide and 7 high, with adobe floor which served as a granary (troxe), but only the beams of the roof were in good condition." Apparently there was a second building, described as a "jacal de palizada", a structure of palings with a thatched roof, that served as the actual granary, due to the poor condition of the granary itself as noted above.

Following the secularization of the Valero Mission in 1794, it seems that the church may have continued in use, but the Friars received their jurisdiction from the Bishop as did all the other Parish priests. In about 1803 the old Mission complex was occupied by the Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras, originally from the Pueblo de San Jose y Santiago del Alamo, Mexico. The Flying Company was a group of soldiers.

The Flying Company used the old church as a chapel, and it is believed they erected adobe barracks within the mission plaza and across the south end. The company also gave the name "Alamo" to the old Mission. The buildings became known as the Pueblo del Alamo and then "the Alamo."

The Company of the Alamo occupied the old Mission until April 1, 1812, when it turned its records over to San Fernando Cathedral and returned to Mexico. The following year to the very day the Republican army of the North made their headquarters in the Alamo. When the Royalists recaptured San Antonio in August, 1813, the old Company of the Alamo returned and occupied the buildings until the late 1820s.

During the following decade it appears that the Alamo complex was uninhabited and the buildings deteriorated both from disuse and from willful destruction. The cut stones of abandoned buildings have always provided a ready-made quarry for later builders.

The next recorded use of the Alamo buildings occurred in the fall of 1835 on the eve of the Texas Revolution. On October 12th word reached San Antonio that La Bahia at Goliad had been surprised and taken the previous day by "about 60 Americans." General Cos, in command of the Mexican forces in San Antonio, ordered the immediate preparation for the defense of the city.

Samuel Maverick, an eyewitness, relates in his diary that on that day, the 12th, timbers and other materials were taken to "El Alamo" to fortify "the quartel." It was at this time also that all of the powder and ammunition were carried to the old Mission church. Three hundred Cavalry and two hundred Infantry were placed "in their quartel in Alamo."

By November 3rd, the Mexicans having "gone on with their work of defense", the city in general was well prepared for a fight and the "quartel in the Alamo" was "strongly fortified." Just how impregnable the Alamo was, however, is questionable. In relating the explanation for an especially brisk Mexican musket firing one night in which instance the Mexicans falsely reported that they had seen the Americans approaching with a great many ladders "to scale the walls," Maverick replied that there was "no need of ladders", thus indicating that the Alamo fortifications were in such state that they could be taken without scaling.

At a later date Maverick recalled the occasion of the fortification of the Alamo by Cos:

"Upon the approach of the first Texian army under Austin, Cos commenced putting the Alamo into fort fashion. I was myself in San Antonio during the month of November '35 (when) with great labor, Cos for the first time turned the Alamo into a fort. He threw down the arches of the church which now lie embedded with the earth in order to make an inclined plane to haul cannon on top the church. He also erected mounds at different distances on the sides for cannon."

Following this incident in which Cos was defeated, the Texas forces remained in San Antonio. In January, 1836, the forces were ordered to level all fortifications in the city and to retire to the Alamo with all guns. The Mexican army under the command of General Santa Anna arrived in the city on February 23 and during the latter part of the day cannon fire was exchanged. The Texans were besieged until the morning of March 6 when the Alamo was over-run by the Mexican forces and the Texas defenders killed.

During the middle of the conflict, on March 2, Texas independence was officially declared.

A plan of the Alamo as fortified by the Texans was prepared for General Vicente Filisola following the battle. Earth platforms with ramps were erected in the northwest and southwest corners of the old Mission walls. Additional platforms and ramps were located at the north wall of the compound and at the northeast corner of the convent. In addition, a long ramp was erected within the roofless church building leading to a platform or roof over the chancel of the church. This long ramp, which shows on Filisola's map as beginning at the doorway and extending to the rear of the church, was constructed of wood, possibly by Cos. This is verified by the observation of Dr. J. H. Barnard, brought to the city after the battle to tend the Mexican wounded, who reported seeing the Mexican troops set fire to the Alamo church upon their exodus at the news of the Texan victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. Barnard reported seeing the fire consume the "platform extending from the great door to the top of the wall on the back side."

The Battle of San Jacinto occurred on April 21, 1836. This battle helped to re-validate Texas independence. Texas became a state of the United States of America nine years later.

The old Mission buildings were left in a great state of ruin. It seems that Cos destroyed parts of it in making his fortification in 1835, but even then he found the church building roofless and the remainder in various states of decay. The siege of 1836 must certainly have caused additional excessive damage which was amplified at the retreat of the Mexican army when General Andrade was ordered to blow up the fortifications of the Alamo.

The first known illustration of the ruins of the Alamo building is a water color drawing by Mary A. Maverick believed to have been done sometime between 1838-1840. This view depicts the Alamo church from the southeast corner of the old mission walls.

MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO
(The Alamo)

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The church is shown roofless with an irregular, broken skyline and is flanked on the north by the ruins of the old convent. The southeast corner of the convent was still two stories high at this time and the lower arcade is evident.

A view published in 1841 by Arthur Skin's British Emigrant's Guide, Texas, depicts a very similar appearance to Mary Maverick's water color. George Kendall, of the New Orleans Picayune, described the Alamo in 1841 as "now in ruins, only two or three of the houses being inhabited." Seth Eastman sketched the Alamo in 1848 and in a pencil drawing dated November 22, titled "Mexican House in San Antonio, Texas. Part of the Alamo," he depicted one of these dwellings as a two-story rock house with shingled gable roof adjoining a one-story grass roofed rock house which in turn adjoined a lower one-story shelter, half stone, half vertical posts, grass roofed. The houses appear to be located at the northwest corner of the old cloister ruins, a part of which were recorded by Eastman, showing two of the archways. Other views of the church building itself by Eastman show the state of ruin of the building when the United States Army took it over.

In 1841 Father John M. Odin and Father Timon represented the Catholic Church before the Texas Legislature in calling to their attention the "claims of the Church of the old mission buildings in San Antonio and elsewhere in the Republic, and as they had not been attended to for many years, many persons had moved into the buildings and had appropriated the adjacent lands." Odin's petition was enacted into law on January 13, 1841, thereby giving title to the Alamo and the other mission churches to the Roman Catholic Church. The City of San Antonio in the 1850s unsuccessfully contested this act, claiming the Alamo property for the City.

In 1847 Samuel A. Maverick, who participated in the Texas Revolution in the Cos affair and later with the forces in the Alamo until he was sent as a delegate to the Independence Convention, determined to claim a portion of the Alamo property as his homestead. In a letter to Captain S. M. Howe at San Antonio, dated July 3, 1847, Maverick by his personal recollection attempted to show that the Alamo was originally a mission and not a fort, therefore substantiating his civil claim to the property against Howe's and the Government's contention that the Government held a right to the property by virtue of its having been an old military complex thus subject to pre-emption by the Army. It is apparent that Maverick did acquire the property.

On January 1, 1850, the Alamo buildings were leased from Bishop Odin by Major E. B. Babbitt, Acting Quartermaster of the Eighth Military Department, in the name of the United States Government, to use as storehouses for the Department's Quartermaster's Depot. Terms of the lease beginning on January 1, were \$150 rental per month, occupancy in force "during the pleasure of the United States" and improvements to revert to the lessor at the termination of the lease. An adjoining lot of ground was leased from Samuel A. Maverick on October 1, 1851, to continue in effect, at \$20 per month, for ten years "should the Government require it that length of time." Seth Eastman of his visit to San Antonio recorded the Alamo in August, 1849: "At present the whole establishment is occupied by the United States Quartermaster's Department."

It was apparently in 1849 that the Alamo church was reconstructed with its familiar shaped gable or fractable. John Fries, a local architect, builder, and contractor, is credited with the design and execution of the 1849 reconstruction; the work was done under the authority granted by Congress to Brevet Major Edwin B. Babbitt, then United States Army Quartermaster in San Antonio.

In his formal report of his official inspection trip to San Antonio, May 31 to June 3, 1853, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William G. Freeman stated that the Quartermaster's Department, a branch of the San Antonio Depot, occupied "The extensive pile known as the 'Alamo buildings', and an adjoining lot of ground . . . The buildings and premises are admirably adapted to their purposes; the storage for supplies is ample and secure, and by the workshops, stables, storerooms and offices, being thus brought together, a stricter vigilance can be exercised over the public interests by the officer in charge (whose own residence adjoins the establishment) than it would be possible for him to exert under a less compact arrangement."

Freeman noted that "No less than eight stations (Forts Martin Scott, Mason, Chadbourne, McKavett, Inge, Clark, Ewell, and Merrill) order their quartermaster stores wholly from this point and supplies are occasionally furnished to ten others, viz. the depots at Austin, Indianola, Corpus Christi, Forts Croghan, Graham, Worth, Belknap, Phantom Hill, Duncan and McIntosh."

In addition to the storage of materials for the Quartermaster's Department, the Alamo was used to store provisions of the Subsistence Department and for the storage of all cannon ammunition.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the Alamo buildings and the United States Army stores were confiscated by the Confederate Government. It has been reported that in 1861, several small boys, surreptitiously smoking cigarettes accidentally set fire to the church building and destroyed the roof structure. The subsequent rebuilding was done by William G. Cotton, a local San Antonio builder and contractor.

Following the close of war the Federal Government again exercised its lease agreement for the Alamo buildings. By 1873, however, the materials stored there were for the most part reported to be "quantities of worthless articles, portions of which have never been used" and when the new Quartermaster Depot was completed at Fort Sam Houston on January 31, 1878, the Alamo buildings were finally relinquished by the Army.

Late in 1877 Honore Grenet, a San Antonio merchant, purchased the Alamo property and all of the buildings with the exception of the church. At that time he leased the church building for 99 years. Grenet had a new tin roof put on the church in January, 1878, and erected a flag staff on the top in order to fly the Texas flag on state occasions.

It is interesting to note that the Herald, in reporting Grenet's purchase of the Alamo in 1877, editorialized about the treatment rendered the hallowed Alamo church by city and state officials. In recording the new roof on January, 1878, the Herald stated, "It deserves more than it has ever received from the hands of the State or other officials save those of the Catholic Church."

Grenet rehabilitated the Alamo church to serve as a storehouse in conjunction with his business, which involved selling of various goods. However, according to the Herald, "should the State of Texas or the City of San Antonio desire to purchase this cradle of Texan liberty, the terms of Mr. Grenet's lease will permit its being done."

On November 30, 1877, Bishop Anthony D. Pellicer sold that part of the Alamo complex known as the "convent building" to Grenet for the sum of \$19,000.

Grenet proceeded to erect a wooden two-story gallery across the long east elevation of the old mission cloister building, the structure that had been rehabilitated by the United States Army in 1849. A false parapet, of wood plank construction, capped the upper gallery and was terminated by a crenellated top. A false pavilion front marked the wagon entrance to the inner court on the south facade. The medieval style of the whole affair was completed by three octagonal wooden towers, one at each end of the east facade, each fourteen feet high, and one in the center twenty feet high. These towers also were capped with crenellations and in addition were provided with gun ports and wooden facisimile cannons. Flagpoles surmounted the towers and the pavilion.

Storage sheds on the east (back) side of the building enclosed a rectangular open court. These sheds, probably frame covered with corrugated metal, were one story high.

On May 12, 1883, the Catholic Bishop, the Reverend John C. Neraz, sold the remainder of the Alamo property, including the Alamo church, to the State of Texas for the sum of \$20,000. With the sale, all of the old Mission passed from ownership of the Church. The City of San Antonio was appointed custodian of the building.

Grenet, who still owned the old convent portion of the Alamo, died suddenly on February 21, 1882, leaving an estate valued at over \$337,000. Grenet's executors then sold the buildings to the firm of Hugo & Schmeltzer for \$28,000.

Charles Hugo and Gustave Schmeltzer, natives of Germany, founded their wholesale grocery firm in 1871. In December, 1872, they occupied the Callaghan Building on Commerce Street near Presa Street and the River, until August, 1883, when the building burned. The firm then purchased the old Grenet store property and by July, 1884, were in business there.

Hugo and Schmeltzer remained in business in the Grenet building utilizing the old convent as a storehouse until the property was purchased by Clara Driscoll and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas with a down payment of \$25,000.

In 1905, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$65,000 for the purchase and preservation of the Alamo. The act of appropriation stated that all of the Alamo property was to be delivered into the custody of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. It also stated that the property is "to be maintained by them in good order and repair. . . to be maintained or remodeled upon plans adopted by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and approved by the Governor of Texas; provided that no changes or alterations shall be made in the Alamo Church proper . . . except as are absolutely necessary for its preservation." This transfer of property was completed late in August, 1905.

On April 19, 1910, a Daughters of the Republic of Texas executive committee resolved to clear away all later building improvements from the Alamo property. This resolution was directed primarily to the old Grenet building with its wooden galleries and crenellations. It was immediately after this move that a long standing feud within the Daughters of the Republic of Texas membership erupted: one faction contended that the old stone convent building restored by the United States Army in 1849 was the true original Spanish work while the other faction believed just as firmly that only the lower story was original.

Governor Oscar J. Colquitt was just as determined to see the Alamo buildings restored to their original state at the time of the fall of the Alamo in 1836. Unable to reach a suitable agreement on this matter with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the governor then on March 4, 1912, reverted the custody of the Alamo to the State.

Shortly thereafter the Governor had the wooden facade that Grenet erected stripped away as the first step in restoring the building. According to the San Antonio Light on January 28, 1912: "The work of razing the modern parts of the Alamo buildings was completed by noon yesterday and lumber from the Hugo-Schmeltzer establishment will be sent to Huntsville." F. E. Giesecke, a professor of architecture at the University of Texas, designed the plans for the restoration of the convent, and J. B. Nitschke superintended the construction work. Giesecke's design was based upon the 1849 renovation work of the United States Quartermaster's Department. Rebuilt on the original foundation, the east wall facing the convent courtyard featured a chain of arched doorways on the first level. The second story of the east wall was never rebuilt. Indeed all of the restoration work ended prematurely when the \$5,000 appropriation ran out. The governor applied for a deficiency under the law, but his efforts were thwarted by a court injunction obtained by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The injunction was upheld by the state's Supreme Court on the grounds that the governor did not have the power to create a deficiency for that purpose. While the governor was out of the state, the lieutenant governor allowed San Antonio authorities to tear down the walls of the upper story. All that remained of the governor's restoration work was the east wall; all that remained of the original convent was the first story masonry of the west and south walls.

Little work was apparently done to the old church building during the following years. It was not until 1920-1921 that the first major reconstruction was accomplished which was the construction of the present reinforced concrete vaulted roof. Shortly afterward in 1921 or 1922 electric lights were installed. In 1928 gas heating was put in.

Additional renovation and "beautification" work was undertaken during the middle and late 1930s. In 1961 the church received a new heating and air conditioning system, installed by the General Electric Company.

Prepared by:
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Architecture Survey
1968

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

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2. Secondary and published sources:

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The San Antonio project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in the summer of 1968, and was made possible with funds from HABS and two sponsors, the Bexar County Historical Survey Committee and the San Antonio Conservation Society. Under the direction of James Massey, chief of HABS, the project was carried out by Wesley I. Shank (Iowa State University), project supervisor, and by student assistant architects, Charles W. Barrow (University of Texas); Les Beilinson (University of Miami); William H. Edwards (University of Illinois); and Larry D. Hermesen (Iowa State University) at the HABS field office in the former Ursuline Academy buildings, San Antonio. John C. Garner, Jr., director of Bexar County Architecture Survey, did the outside work on the written documentaries. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D. C. office, edited the written data in 1983, for preparation of transmittal to the Library of Congress.